

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
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USTR APPEALS WTO SHRIMP-TURTLE REPORT

Today the Office of the United States Trade Representative filed its formal notice of appeal of the WTO panel report that addressed U.S. measures restricting shrimp imports. The panel report, issued on April 6, 1998, found the import restrictions to be inconsistent with U.S. obligations under the WTO Agreement.

The United States 'Shrimp-Turtle Law' at issue in the case restricts imports of shrimp harvested with equipment that harms endangered species of sea turtles. At the time the panel report was issued, USTR Charlene Barshefsky announced that the United States believed the panel reached the wrong conclusion, and noted that the WTO Agreement recognizes the rights of WTO members to adopt these types of laws for the purpose of conserving exhaustible natural resources.

The appeal will be heard by a three-member panel of the WTO's standing Appellate Body. The Appellate Body should issue its findings within ninety days.

The panel report is publicly available in the USTR Reading Room and on the WTO website, www.wto.org.